

Application No. 10/696,001
Reply to Office Action of July 26, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1-6E. These sheets, which include Figures 1-6E, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-6E.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (6)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application; Claims 16 and 18 are amended; and Claims 20-23 are added by the present amendment. Support for the amendments and new claims is found in the Specification as originally filed at least at page 7, lines 1-14. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, filing of a certified copy of the priority document was requested; Figures 1-6E were objected to for not having "Background Art" labels; the Specification was objected to due to an informality; the Title was objected to as not being descriptive; Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; Claims 1 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by O'conner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,455,839, herein "O'Conner"); and Claims 2-15 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the request of the certified copy of Japanese priority document 2003-312853, the certified copy is submitted herewith.

Accordingly, Applicant requests formal acknowledgement of the submitted certified copy.

In response to the objection of Figures 1-6E, Figures 1-6E are amended to include "Background Art" labels.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the objection of the Specification, the Specification is presently amended to correct the typographical error as suggested. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the objection of the Title, the Title is presently amended to be descriptive.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 16-19, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 16 and 18 are presently amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. To that end, Amended Claim 16 now states, “which generates a trigger signal based on an operation from outside of the trigger generator” and amended Claim 18 now includes the corresponding antecedent reference identifier. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by O’Conner, Applicant requests reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

Claim 1 recites:

A semiconductor photosensor device which outputs a detection result when a trigger signal is inputted, comprising:

a photodiode current arithmetic circuit which is in an operating state regardless of whether before or after the input of the trigger signal, and which outputs a photocurrent generated by light irradiation;

a first amplifier which is in an operating state regardless of whether before or after the input of the trigger signal, and which amplifies and outputs the output of the photodiode current arithmetic circuit; and

a second amplifier which is in a non-operating state before the input of the trigger signal, wherein the second amplifier shifts to an operating state upon receiving the trigger signal, and amplifies and outputs the output of the first amplifier.

Claim 16 also recites these features.

O'Conner describes an object detection system which "employs a photo-emitter and photo-detector for synchronously detecting and processing an optical signal."¹ O'Conner uses a photo-detector (illumination) to generate a detector output signal.²

Claim 1 recites a trigger signal (e.g., key operation),³ which is different from illumination, to change the operating state of the second amplifier. Claim 1 distinguishes the light irradiation input from the trigger signal. O'Conner uses illumination to ultimately generate the state change along with a modulation signal,⁴ which is a repetitive periodic wave as shown in O'Conner's Figures 7 and 8, and therefore also is different from a trigger signal. The modulation signal and the illumination used in O'Conner are different from the trigger signal in Claim 1 because they do not trigger a response in accordance with a user input, and therefore are different from a trigger signal.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that O'Conner fails to teach or suggest every feature recited in Claim 1 and Claim 16. Specifically, O'Conner fails to teach or suggest, "a photodiode current arithmetic circuit which is in an operating state regardless of whether before or after the input of the trigger signal, and which outputs a photocurrent generated by light irradiation; ... and a second amplifier which is in a non-operating state before the input of the trigger signal, wherein the second amplifier shifts to an operating state upon receiving the trigger signal, and amplifies and outputs the output of the first amplifier," as recited in Claim 1 and 16.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 16, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

¹ O'Conner, Abstract.

² O'Conner, col. 5, lines 40-48.

³ Specification, page 7, lines 6-14.

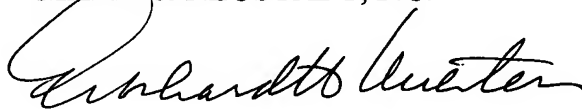
⁴ O'Conner, col. 5, line 49 - col. 6, line 5, Figures 7 and 8.

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Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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